

Some ACCOUNT of the
Great Sea-Fight,
 Wherein Their MAJESTIES
NAVY-ROYAL,
 In Conjunction with the
Dutch Squadron,
 ENGAGED THE
French Fleet
 Off of **CAPE BARFLEUR,**
 On the Nineteenth of *May*, 1692.

AND

Put them to Flight, Burning and Sinking many of their
 Ships, so that the Sea appeared full of Wrecks of Ships
 for Two Leagues together.

WITH AN

Account of the Sinking the *French Admiral*, and his two
Seconds: Running many of their Ships a-ground,
 which are destroyed by our Fleet.

AND

Some other Particulars relating to this glorious Success
 and Victory over the *Common Enemy*.

Licensed according to Order.

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 and J. Back. 1692.

Some ACCOUNT of the
Great Sea-Fight,
 Wherein Their MAJESTIES
N A V Y - R O Y A L,
 In Conjunction with the
Dutch Squadron,
 Engaged the
French Fleet, &c.

THE *French* thinking to do great Matters at Sea this Summer, got their Fleet out somewhat sooner than than they were wont, appearing more numerous and daring than they did the last Summer ; so that on the 9th. of *May*, their whole Fleet, consisting of about 100 Sail was, about Noon, seen off of *Dartmouth*, at a great Distance, viz. three Leagues from the Start, and continued turning to the Eastward, the Wind at East and by North ; and the next Day, they

they were again seen from the same Place, when, by their sailing, they seemed as if they intended to stand to their own Coast: And our Fleet being now well mann'd, and in a very good Readiness, on the 14th. of *May*, in the Afternoon, Admiral *Russel* weighed Anchor out of *Rye Bay*, and about eleven the next Morning joyned Sir *Ralph Delaval*, and Rear-Admiral *Carter* at *St. Helens*, and soon after divers Dutch Men of War came to joyn him, so that the whole Fleet consisted of about Ninety Sail of Ships for the Line of Battel, the Officers and Seamen being very hearty and full of Courage, and every thing gave a happy Prefage of the Glorious Success that soon after ensued, as appears by the Loyal Address, humbly presented to Her Majesty by the Chief Commanders of her Fleet; which for the Satisfaction of the Reader, it may not be amiss to Insert, as an Introduction to so glorious an Enterprize, viz.

The Queen being informed of a scandalous and malicious Report that was spread abroad, as if some of the Officers of their Majesties Fleet were disaffected, or not hearty in their Service, and that her Majesty had thereupon ordered the Discharge of many of them from their Employments; Her Majesty was pleased to command the Earl of *Nottingham* to write to Admiral *Russel*, and let him know, that her Majesty was satisfied that this Report was raised by the Enemies of the Government, and that she reposed so entire a Confidence in their Fidelity, that she had resolved not to displace any one of them; which being by the Admiral communicated to them, they made and sent up the following Address.

WE Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects and Servants, Flag-Officers and Captains in Your Majesty's Fleet; out of the deep and grateful Sense we have of Your Majesty's good and just Opinion of our Loyalty and Fidelity Imparted to us by the Right Honourable Admiral *Russel*, in a Letter to him from my Lord *Nottingham*, do, in the behalf of our selves, and all other Officers and Seamen, presume to address our selves to your Majesty at this Juncture, to undeceive

'the World in those false and malicious Reports that have been
 'lately spread in prejudice of Your Majesty's Service, by People
 'of an unreasonable Disaffection to Your Majesty's Government,
 'and an obstinate Aversion to the Quiet and Good of our Coun-
 'try, that there are some amongst us that are not truly zealous
 'for, and entirely devoted to your Majesty's Service; we do
 'therefore most humbly beg Your Majesty's Leave to add to
 'our repeated Oaths, this Assurance of our Fidelity, that we
 'with all imaginable Alacrity and Resolution, venture our
 'Lives in the Defence of Your Majesty's undoubted Rights, and
 'the Liberty and Religion of our Country, against all Foreign
 'and Popish Invaders whatsoever; and that God Almighty
 'may preserve Your Majesty's most sacred Person, direct your
 'Councils, and prosper Your Arms by Sea and Land against
 'Your Majesty's Enemies, Let all the People say *Amen*, with
 'Your Majesty's Dutiful and Loyal Subjects.

Dated on Board the Britannia,
 at St. Helens.

May, 15.
 1691.

This was signed by Sir John Ashby, Admiral of the Blew,
 Sir Ralph Delaval, Vice Admiral of the Red, Mr. Rook, Vice
 Admiral of the Blew, Sir Clously Shovel, Rear Admiral of the
 Red, Mr. Carter, Rear Admiral of the Blew; upon receiving
 which, her Majesty was pleased to say, *That she had always this
 Opinion of the Commanders, but was glad this was come to satisfie
 others.*

The English and Dutch Fleets having now taken the Seas, on
 the 18th. of May, the Admirals Scouts, whilst he bore South
 West and by South, seven Leagues from Cape Barfleur, made
 the Signal for seeing the Enemy, the Wind Westwardly: The
 French bore down upon our Fleet, and about eleven engaged
 it, but at some distance; we continued fighting till half an
 hour past five in the Evening, at which time, the Enemy tow-
 ed away with all their Boats, and we after them. It was calm
 all day, about six there was a fresh Engagement to the West-
 ward.

ward of the Admiral, supposed to be the Blew, and it continued calm all Night, but the Particulars at present, are only, that the French were beaten, and the Admiral was steering away for *Conquet Road*, having a fresh Gale Easterly (but very foggy) that being the place he supposed they designed for; and that if it pleased God to send Fair Weather, he doubted not but to destroy the whole French Fleet. In the Night, three or four Ships were seen to blow up, but not known what they were.

As to some other Particulars, it appears by another Advice, That about the grey or opening of the Morning, our Fleet made the *French Fleet* in a Line of Battel, about two Leagues to the Windward; and they then having the Weather-gage, bore down very boldly and closely upon our Fleet; at Eleven the Engagement began, and continued very hot and furious till almost four in the Afternoon, at what time the *French Fleet* bore away. The Wind at West by South, and West South West, veering about to North by East, and North North East, Sir *Cloufly Shouet*, and Sir *John Ashby*, having the Weather-gage, fell bravely on, maintaining the Engagement till almost ten at Night; the *French* all that while bearing away, and the *English* pursuing them, some Ships were seen in the Night-time in flames, about nine of the Clock; but not knowing what they were, nor likewise the damage sustained on either side, when this Advice came away.

But since this, the *Mary Galley* came from Admiral *Russel*, to *Spithead*; who left him at Eight in the morning, about fifteen Leagues South and by West from the *Isle of Wight*, declaring he saw both the French Admirals Seconds sunk, and many Ships on fire, and that for the space of two Leagues together the Sea was full of Wrecks of Ships, but knew not of the loss of any of their Majesties Ships or Commanders; and that when this Galley came away, the *French* were running, and the *English* in pursuit of them; and about Ten of the Clock he heard them Engag'd again, and the Guns firing till One, at what time the Wind sprung up at South and by West.

Upon

Upon this News, and ever to be wish'd-for Success, as well by Land as Sea, of which Heaven has given us already so great an Earnest of future Improvement against the Common Enemy, not only the Joy of all good Subjects abounded, but the Bells, in all places where it came, were rung out; the Tower-Guns, and those in other places, were discharged, and the Streets, at Night, filled with Bonfires and Illuminations, to the great contentment and rejoycing of the Nation.

Since the former Advices, a Letter came from *Portsmouth*, bearing date the 21st. of May, giving an Account that Their Majesties Ship the *Montague*, Captain *Foulk* Commander, came in thither from the Fleet, his Ship being disabled in the Fight, he leaving the Fleet the day before, about Nine of the Clock in the morning, pursuing the Enemy; and says, that Mr. *Carter*, Reer-Admiral of the *Blue*, was kill'd in the Action. And the same Letter further relates, That Captain *Killingsworth*, Commander of the *Fox Fire-ship*, had made his way to *Portsmouth* in his Boat; and gave an Account, That he had burnt his Fire-ship on board the *French* Reer-Admiral, but was put off with a great deal of difficulty; and that he saw a *French* Man-of-War, of about Seventy Guns, blow up, and another Three-deck'd Ship on fire.

On the Twenty first, about Nine of the Clock in the morning, our Fleet set sail again; as likewise did the *French*: Admiral *Russel* took his course towards *Bay fleur*, having got sight of divers Ships under the shore: Admiral *Allemond*, of the *Dutch*, and the Admiral of the *Blue*, sailed to the Westward. The first of these endeavoured to get up with sixteen of the Enemies Ships which he discovered, supposing them to be coming from *France* to joyn the *French* Fleet. Sir *John Asby* pursued the rest of the *French* Fleet, who in much Confusion laboured to get into the Rafe of *Ornay*. Admiral *Allemond* lost sight of the afore-mentioned sixteen Ships in the night, they having, as he supposed, got in among the Rocks; and because he found it not safe nor convenient to follow them there, he sailed Eastward again, to rejoyne Admiral *Russel*.

On the Twenty second, in the Morning, Vice-Admiral *De-laval* burnt, near to the shore, under *Cape de Wake*, a great Ship, called the *Royal Sun*, of *France*, being the Ship of Count *de Tourville*, the *French* Admiral, carrying a Hundred and Four Guns; as likewise the Admiral commanded by his *Second*, Monsieur *Beaujeu*, a Ship carrying a Hundred and two Guns; and the *Fort* of Eighty Guns; with two *Frigats*, and Three of lesser rank: And Admiral *Russel* was in close pursuit of Nine more. The Prisoners who were taken from the burnt Ships, declared, That during the time of the Battel, 4 or 5 of their biggest Ships were destroyed. Reer-Admiral *Carter*, and Collonel *Hastings*, after much Bravery and Resolution, were both killed in the Fight: And at this time an Account came from *Portsmouth*, that four *French* Ships, of three Decks, lay on the back of the *Isle of Wight*, extremely disabled; and that two *English* Men of War, who were refitted, with two *Dutch* *Frigates*, and a *Fire-ship*, were going against them, to take or destroy them.

E I N I S.

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